



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 27, 2016

Ms. Gina Gott
Vermeer Manufacturing Company
1210 Vermeer Road East
Pella, IA 50219

NEF-150MR
16V-378

Subject: Chipper may Separate from Tow Vehicle

Dear Ms. Gott:

This letter serves to acknowledge Vermeer Manufacturing Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

VERMEER/BC900XL/2012-2016

Mfr's Report Date: May 24, 2016

NHTSA Campaign Number: 16V-378

Components:

STRUCTURE:FRAME AND MEMBERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 636

Problem Description:

Vermeer Manufacturing Company (Vermeer) is recalling certain model year 2012-2016 BC900XL wood chippers manufactured June 8, 2012, to May 31, 2016. The chassis of the affected wood chippers may have improper welds which could result in separation of the wood chipper from the tow vehicle.

Consequence:

If the brush chipper separates from the tow vehicle, there would be an increased risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Vermeer will notify owners, and dealers will remove the current fixed tongue and bolt on a new fixed tongue, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in July 2016. Owners may contact Vermeer customer service at 1-800-829-0051 extension 7060. Vermeer's number for this recall is IK3304.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Vermeer's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement